

Synopsis of

"THE NIGHT LETTER"

By

H. H. Van Loan.

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Macy, middle-aged people of means, are giving a party in honor of the engagement of their attractive young daughter, Mary.

At the same time, "Spotty" Malone, a Western Union messenger boy, is sent from the Western Union office to deliver a message to the Macy's. Spotty starts off on this mission in a dilapidated Ford runabout, which with a mail-order banjo, constitutes all his worldly possessions. He lives with his widowed mother, who is forced to take in sewing to help make ends meet.

When he arrives at the Macy residence, he is attracted by a little "second-story work" that is being done by "Melt" Fagan, a gentleman crook, and his two pals. The telegram forgotten, he proceeds to climb up the lattice after them. Under cover of the general confusion of the party, Melt, who is mingling with the guests, well disguised in proper dinner clothes, contrives to make away with considerable loot and even gets Mary's jewelry, and departs, leaving her unconscious.

Spotty who has beheld all this in speechless amazement decides to give chase to the crooks. They depart in their car and he sets out after them in his little flivver. The car soon comes to a halt. No gas! But a street car is passing and he boards that. When it turns a corner, he jumps out. The truck also turns down another street. He follows the fleeing crooks and Spotty somehow gets into a car pulling up to an empty gasoline station. He goes in to impersonate the regular attendant and fills the bandit car with water instead of gas. He then goes to his own Ford and dashes up to the robbers just as they are coming to a stop. In his effort to catch them, however, a collection of motor-cycle cops have been chasing the speeding Spotty, so he is all set to make the arrest of the crooks and lead them to the police station in triumph.

Meantime, there has been much ado at the Macy home, and they are telling their troubles to the police when Spotty arrives in spectacular fashion with the robbers and all the loot. At first, everyone is inclined to be skeptical of his share in the matter but he convinces them he is entirely innocent and when Mr. Macy demands what he was doing in his home anyway at that time of the night, Spotty recalls the long-forgotten telegram. Mr. Macy excitedly tears it open to learn "IT'S A BOY!"

Spotty gets the thousand dollar reward for the capture of the crooks, immediately resigns his position as messenger boy, and goes triumphantly home to his mother, bringing her the new sewing machine she had so long wanted.

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